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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,128	04/15/2004	Peter A. Franaszek	YOR920040079US1	3127

23413 7590 09/21/2007
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EXAMINER

BATAILLE, PIERRE MICHE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2186

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/21/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/709,128

Applicant(s)

AKIO OHBA

Examiner

Pierre-Michel Bataille

Art Unit

2186

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 July 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The present Office Action is taken in response to applicant's communication filed July 6, 2007. Claims 1-29 are pending in the application under prosecution.
2. The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification, the drawings, and/or the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

The invention as recited in claim 29 is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The application is therefore rejected under 35 USC 101 because the claimed invention is simply directed to a computer readable medium having computer readable instructions.

The claim languages as recited in 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because it also appears that the computer readable medium that is claimed by the applicant is not limited to physical articles or objects, which are structurally and functionally interrelated to the instructions in such a manner that would enable the instructions to act

as a computer component and realize any functionality. Additionally, on page 14 (paragraph 0036) the specification refers to the present invention to be embodied in the form of computer program code, for example, whether stored in a storage medium, loaded into and/or executed by a computer, or transmitted over some transmission medium, such as over electrical wiring or cabling, through fiber optics, or via electromagnetic radiation,... (see page 14 paragraph 14).

“...An embodiment of the present invention can also be embodied in the form of computer program code, for example, whether stored in a storage medium, loaded into and/or executed by a computer, or transmitted over some transmission medium, such as over electrical wiring or cabling, through fiber optics, or via electromagnetic radiation, ...

The claim languages (recited in claim 29) simply represent an abstract idea wherein it is simply requires a computer-readable medium be, for example but not limited to, infrared, or propagation medium now known or later developed, such as paper or another suitable medium upon which the program can be printed. This fails to provide a useful, concrete, and tangible purpose or result.

Since the claims presented by the applicant are indeed simply abstract ideas, the claims are not covered by the statutory categories of patentable subject matter set forth in 35 U.S.C. 101. An abstract idea is categorized as one of the three judicially created exceptions to patentable subject matter (the three exceptions are Laws of Nature, Natural Phenomena, and Abstract Ideas). The courts have concluded that in order to

patent on of the three judicial exceptions to the statutory categories of the invention the claimed subject matter must have a practical, real-world application that produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result (State Street, 149 F.3d at 1373-74, 47 USPQ2d at 1601-02).

Applicant is reminded that patent protection is limited to inventions that possess a certain level of "real world" value, as opposed to subject matter that represents nothing more than an idea or concept (Brenner v. Manson, 383 U.S. 519, 528-36, 148 USPQ 689, 693-96 (1966)); In re Fisher, 421 F.3d 1365, 76 USPQ2d 1225 (Fed. Cir. 2005); In re Ziegler, 992 F.2d 1197, 1200-03, 26 USPQ2d 1600, 1603-06 (Fed. Cir. 1993)).

The subject matter does not fall within a statutory category of invention because it is neither a process, machine, manufacture, nor a composition of matter. It is directed to a form of energy and forms of energy which do not fall within a statutory category of invention since they are clearly not a series of steps or acts to constitute a machine, nor a tangible physical article or object which is in some form of matter to be a product and constitute a manufacture, and not a composition of two or more substances to constitute a composition of matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-28 are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre-Michel Bataille whose telephone number is (571) 272-4178. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon, Tue-Fri (8:00A to 5:30P).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew M. Kim can be reached on (571) 272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Pierre-Michel Bataille
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2186